

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07

EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 IOE-00 SP-02 L-03

H-02 OIC-02 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 /111 W

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, EAGR, OCON

SUBJECT: PROPOSED IMPROVED PROCEDURES FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

REF: ROME 10975

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF INFORMAL MEMORANDUM WRITTEN BY WORLD FOOD COUNCIL ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HARRY WALTERS (U.S.) WHO IS ACTING IN CHARGE OF WFC SECRETARIAT IN ABSENCE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN HANNAH (U.S.) AND DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SARTAJ AZIZ (PAKISTAN).

2. QTE THE MAJOR LESSONS THAT CAN BE GLEANED FROM OUR EXPERIENCE OF THE PAST YEAR ARE THAT:

A) WE DID NOT ENSURE THAT ALL ISSUES THAT WOULD COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL WERE INCORPORATED WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING:

B) THE ISSUES UPON WHICH ACTION MIGHT HAVE BEEN TAKEN WERE NOT SUFFICIENTLY DISTILLED AND REFINED TO BE MANAGEABLE;

C) THE ISSUES WERE NOT ADEQUATELY DISCUSSED IN ADVANCE WITH
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GOVERNMENTS;

D) THE PREPARATORY MEETING WAS THEREFORE UNABLE TO CLARIFY AND RESOLVE ISSUES SUFFICIENTLY AND THUS UNABLE TO DEVELOP A LIMITED NUMBER OF SPECIFIC AND IMPORTANT DECISIONS FOR MINISTERS TO DEAL WITH;

E) FOR THIS REASON, FOR LACK OF TIME BETWEEN THE PREPARATORY MEETING AND THE COUNCIL MEETING AND BECAUSE OF LACK OF A PRECEDURE TO DO SO, ISSUES WERE NOT ADEQUATELY DISCUSSED WITH MINISTERS IN ADVANCE OF THE COUNCIL SESSION; AND

F) MINISTERS WERE NOT THEREFORE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON IMPORTANT DECISIONS AND TAKE DECISIONS.

3. THESE LESSONS SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES NEED TO BE FOLLOWED IN OUR PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEXT COUNCIL SESSION:

1. THE AGENDA: WE NEED TO HAVE THE MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES ON THE AGENDA DETERMINED BY SEPTEMBER. THIS PAST YEAR WE DID NOT KNOW FOR CERTAIN WHEN THE COUNCIL MEETING WOULD BE NOR DID WE HAVE THE AGENDA FORMALLY AGREED TO UNTIL THE LATTER PART OF FEBRUARY. THIS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO BE ADEQUATELY PREPARED FOR THE PREPARATORY MEETING AND THE COUNCIL SESSION. WE SHOULD DISCUSS THE AGENDA INFORMALLY WITH REPRESENTATIVES HERE IN ROME DURING THE SUMMER AND DIRECTLY WITH GOVERNMENTS IF APPROPRIATE SO THAT A MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL CAN BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER TO ESTABLISH THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE AGENDA. AT THAT MEETING WE SHOULD ENSURE THAT THERE IS A COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF TWO ISSUES;

A) THAT ALL ITEMS OF MAJOR RELEVANCE TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AT THE NEXT SESSION ARE INCORPORATED IN THE AGENDA KEEPING IN MIND THAT THE AGENDA HAS TO BE BRIEF;

B) THAT, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL MAJOR RELEVANT ISSUES ARE CONSIDERED, THE MAIN LINES OF THE AGENDA MUST BE ADHERED TO SO THAT ADDITIONAL ISSUES OF A COMPLEX NATURE ARE NOT INTRODUCED TOO LATE FOR ADEQUATE PREPARATION AND MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATION. ALLOWANCE CAN BE MADE FOR EMERGENCY ISSUES THAT CANNOT BE FORESEEN IN SEPTEMBER (SEE PREPARATORY MEETING).
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2. DOCUMENTS: WE MUST THEN COMMENCE SUBSTANTIVE PREPARATION OF DOCUMENTATION FOR THE MAJOR ITEMS OF THE AGENDA DURING SEPTEMBER SO THAT PRELIMINARY BUT LARGELY COMPLETE DRAFTS OF ALL SUBSTANTIVE PAPERS CAN BE READY BY THE END OF JANUARY 1977. THESE DRAFT DOCUMENTS MUST HAVE ALREADY DISTILLED THE ESSENTIAL ISSUES INVOLVED SO THAT FOR EACH ITEM THERE ARE NO MORE THAN ONE OR TWO MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS OR RESOLUTIONS. IF RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOWING FROM A

GIVEN ITEM INVOLVE FAIRLY DETAILED AND SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES TO AGENCIES THESE MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN A COMPENDIUM RECOMMENDATION OR RESOLUTION.

3. DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS: WITH THE DRAFT DOCUMENTS IN HAND, DURING FEBRUARY AND MARCH THERE SHOULD BE PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS IN ROME WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE COUNCIL, FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSIONS OF MAJOR ISSUES AND ITEMS WITH AS MANY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS OF THE COUNCIL AS FEASIBLE IN THE COUNTRIES THEMSELVES. THESE DISCUSSIONS SHOULD INCLUDE CONSULTATIONS IN SUBSTANCE WITH INDIVIDUALS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN POLICY FORMULATION WITH RESPECT TO THE ISSUES UNDER CONSIDERATION AND AN INITIAL DISCUSSION OF THE MAJOR ISSUES WITH THE MINISTER LIKELY TO ATTEND THE MINISTERIAL MEETING.

4. FINAL REVISION OF DOCUMENTS: AFTER THESE DISCUSSIONS, LATE MARCH, FINAL REVISIONS SHOULD BE MADE IN THE DOCUMENTS WITH EMPHASIS ON A SUCCINCT PRESENTATION OF MAJOR ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING INCLUDING DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS OR RESOLUTIONS FOR MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATION. THESE FINAL DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE DESPATCHED TO GOVERNMENTS AND DISCUSSED IN DETAIL WITH ROME REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL ABOUT APRIL 1.

5. THE PREPARATORY MEETING: THE PREPARATORY MEETING SHOULD CONCENTRATE ITS ATTENTION ON NARROWING THE POINTS OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THE ISSUES DEVELOPED IN THE DOCUMENTS AND ESPECIALLY CONCENTRATE ITS ATTENTION ON DEVELOPING A LIMITED NUMBER OF SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS OR RESOLUTIONS FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION AND DECISION. THESE RECOMMENDATIONS OR RESOLUTIONS SHOULD BE LIMITED IN NUMBER, POSSIBLY SIX, SHOULD BE BRIEF, NO MORE THAN A PARAGRAPH OR TWO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN THEIR SUBSTANTIVE SECTIONS, AND SHOULD BE CLEARLY CONCERNED WITH MAJOR ISSUES WHICH WOULD GIVE CLEAR POLICY DIRECTION IF DECIDED UPON BY MINISTERS. EVERY EFFORT HAS TO BE MADE AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING TO ENSURE THAT THESE WILL BE THE ITEMS MINISTERS WILL CONCENTRATE THEIR ATTENTION ON. IF ADDITIONAL ITEMS ARE TO BE CONSIDERED THE SUBSTANTIVE BASIS FOR CONSIDERING THAT ITEM AS WELL AS THE SPECIFIC NATURE OF THE RECOMMENDATION TO FOLLOW FROM IT SHOULD BE INTRODUCED AT THE OUTSET OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING SO THAT THE PREPARATORY MEETING CAN CONSIDER AND DECIDE WHETHER THAT ITEM WILL BE ON THE AGENDA FOR MINISTERS.

6. DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTERS: IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PREPARATORY MEETING A SECOND STAGE OF DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE INITIATED WITH MINISTERS EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE COUNCIL MEETING. THE PURPOSE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE TO DEVELOP MAXIMUM MINISTERIAL INTEREST

IN THE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS OR RESOLUTIONS DECIDED UPON AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING AND TO ENCOURAGE GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOP POSITIONS THEY WILL BE TAKING ON THESE ISSUES.

7. THE COUNCIL MEETING: MAXIMUM EMPHASIS AT THE COUNCIL MEETING SHOULD BE PLACED ON MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS INVOLVING THE PRESIDENT. THIS COULD BE ENCOURAGE BY A PRESIDENT'S DINNER WITH MINISTERS BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE COUNCIL SESSION OR BY INFORMAL MEETINGS OR LUNCHEES ARRANGED BY THE PRESIDENT CONSISTING ONLY OF MINISTERS AT VARIOUS POINTS DURING THE MINISTERIAL SESSION. THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE GUIDED BY THE PRESIDENT TO TURN ITS ATTENTION FIRST TO MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS ON THE ITEMS FOR MINISTERIAL DECISION AND SECOND TO THE RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES THAT MAY EXIST ON THESE ITEMS AND THE ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OR RESOLUTIONS. IN THIS WAY DECISIONS BY THE MINISTERS WILL CONSTITUTE THE MAIN PORTION OF THE REPORT OF THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING. UNQTE.VOLPE

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